

transmitting the functional scope through the bus system to the control unit;

using the transmitted functional scope in the control unit at least partially for forming a functional scope of the entire system;

*22  
conell*  
furnishing the control unit with its unit-specific functional scope from the memories associated with the individual units upon a modification of the system for generating source data and upon an attendant modification of the functional scope of the system;

at least partly combining the unit-specific functional scopes into a new total functional scope of the entire system; and

subsequently triggering the individual units with the control unit in accordance with the total functional scope, and allocating the generated source data to the individual corresponding units accordingly.

---

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-26 remain in the application. Claims 1, 20, and 21 have been amended.

In item 1 on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, the drawings have been objected to because the blocks in Fig. 1 are not labeled with proper legends. A proposed informal Fig. 1 is submitted for approval.

In item 4 on page 2 of the Office action, claims 1-6, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, and 20 have been rejected as being anticipated by Chapman (U.S. Patent No. 5,073,943) under 35 U.S.C. § 102. In item 6 on page 3 of the Office action, claims 7, 8, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, and 21-26 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Chapman under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

The rejection has been noted and the claims have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. Support for the limitation of the units being spaced apart from each other is found on page 3, lines 20-27 and on page 9, line 13 to page 10, line 9 of the specification. Support for the limitation of the functional scope of the at least one given unit defining a variety of functions of the at least one given unit is found on page 1, lines 15-17, page 7, lines 16-23, page 10, lines 11-27, and page 16, lines 14-19 of the specification of the instant application.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

The invention of the instant application is based on the idea that the functional scope of a sound system is formed by the individual functional scopes of the various components in the sound system. Forming the functional scope of the sound system from the individual functional scopes corresponds to an initialization process of the entire system. The functional scope defines the variety of different functions or functionalities of the sound system.

In case a new function or functionality is added, e.g. when a new component such as a DVD player is present in the sound system, this new function is included into the functional scope of the sound system by the above-mentioned initialization process. It is noted that prior to adding the new component, the sound system did not know this new function.

Only after this initialization process can the new functions or functionalities be specifically adjusted in accordance with the possibilities of a function by specific system parameters (functional parameters), which are transmitted over the bus system. If, for example, the new DVD player makes it possible for the first time to have the function "balance", then this

new function "balance" could only be used after an initialization process. Only after performing this initialization process would it be possible to transmit specific "balance parameters" and set the distribution of the volume in the left channel and in the right channel in accordance with specific control parameters. It is pointed out that one needs to distinguish between the functional scope on the one hand and the transmission of functional parameters corresponding to the functional scope on the other hand.

Chapman discloses an automotive sound system and a method for initiating a system activity in a temporarily powered-down sound system. Fig. 2 of Chapman illustrates a preferred system. The components of this system communicate data over an internal serial bus 28 (col. 5, lines 1-6). Col. 2, lines 44-60 and col. 5, lines 30-52 of Chapman describe a system that includes an audio processing circuit, a display, a microprocessor, an ignition sense means, and an input means all combined in a single apparatus and connected by an internal serial data bus.

In contrast thereto, the sound system of the invention of the instant application has its units 2-7 not disposed in a single apparatus, but has the units spaced apart from each other and distributed throughout a vehicle or a house.

Chapman teaches that the serial bus 28 communicates various system parameters which are suited to vary a setting of a function of the functional scope of the sound system. This however does not include a change, expansion, or reduction of the functional scope, but includes only a change in the setting of a single function. The function as such remains unchanged.

The invention of the instant application concerns a decentralized system which performs an initialization process by transmitting individual functional scopes of individual units and thus forms an overall functional scope of the entire system (see claims 1, 20, and 21). Such an initialization is not shown or suggested by Chapman.

The control unit of the decentralized sound system of the invention of the instant application might have no functional scope at all before the initialization. During the initialization, the functional scope might be extended step by step and the control unit could react in response to control commands and change the settings of individual functions. Chapman does not describe such an initialization but only discloses changing the setting of various system parameters, which presupposes a fixed functional scope. Chapman discloses a fixed (initialized) functional scope and how this fixed functional scope is used, whereas the invention of the instant application is concerned with forming a functional scope of the

entire system from individual functional scopes of the units in the system.

Clearly Chapman does not show or suggest the limitation of the units 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 being spaced apart from each other and at least a given one of the units 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 other than the control unit 2 having an associated memory 9 representing a functional scope of the at least one given unit 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, the functional scope defining a variety of functions of the at least one given unit, the functional scope to be transmitted through the bus system 8 to the control unit 2, and the transmitted functional scope to be used in the control unit 2 at least partially for forming a functional scope of the entire system, as recited in claims 1 and 20 or as recited in the corresponding method steps of claim 21 of the instant application.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claim 1, 20, or 21. Claims 1, 20, and 21 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claims 1 or 21, they are believed to be patentable as well.

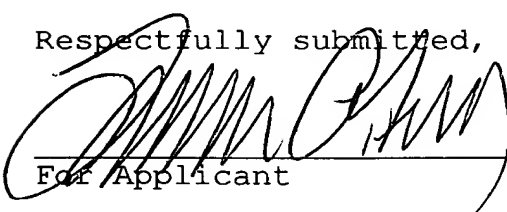
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-26 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, she is respectfully requested to telephone counsel so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

Petition for extension is herewith made. The extension fee for response within a period of one month pursuant to Section 1.136(a) in the amount of \$110.00 in accordance with Section 1.17 is enclosed herewith.

Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,

  
For Applicant

MB:cgm

February 8, 1999

Lerner and Greenberg, P.A.  
Post Office Box 2480  
Hollywood, FL 33022-2480  
Tel: (954) 925-1100  
Fax: (954) 925-1101

LAURENCE A. GREENBERG  
REG. NO. 29,308

RECEIVED

FEB 23 1999

Group 2700

Fig. 1

